

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1, and ending on page 9, line 17, as set forth below:

B1  
The flexible nose cup assembly 33 is positioned on an inside surface of the face protection shell 31 such that the nose cup assembly 33 is capable of engaging the mouth and nose of the user. The nose cup assembly 33 comprises a flexible material, preferably an elastic material such as silicone rubber, and the like, and combinations thereof. The nose cup assembly 33 also comprises a breathe-through airflow assembly 38 and a filter unit 39 which may either be fitted inside of the nose cup assembly 33, or may be externally attached to it. Such breathe-through airflow assemblies may be a simple filter arrangement or may be attached to an oxygen supply as are well known in the art. The nose cup assembly 33 may optionally further comprise a port for connecting a source of breathing oxygen to the nose cup. The filter unit preferably comprises a filter element comprising a material capable of filtering chemical vapors and biological aerosols. Suitable filter materials nonexclusively include carbon filters such as bonded or packed-bed carbon filters. The nose cup assembly may also further comprise a negative pressure filter assembly, a positive pressure filter blower device, or a circulating filter blower device as are well known in the art.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 9 and 13-16. Claim 8 was previously canceled. Claims 1-7, 10-12, and 17-20 remain in the case.

**Claim 1. (Original)** A modular helmet-mask assembly which comprises:

- B2*
- (a) a helmet capable of enclosing the head of a user, said helmet comprising an impact resistant material; and
  - (b) a face protection assembly, alternately attachable to and detachable from a front part of said helmet, which face protection assembly comprises
    - (i) a face protection shell comprising an impact resistant material;
    - (ii) a vision port through the shell at the level of the eyes of a user;
    - (iii) a flexible noseclip assembly within the shell, which noseclip assembly is positioned to engage the mouth and nose of a user, said noseclip comprising a breathe-through airflow assembly and a filter unit;
    - (iv) a flexible face seal, disposed on an inner surface of the shell around the noseclip assembly and the vision port, which face seal is capable of engaging the face of a user; and
    - (v) an adjustable head harness attached at an surface of the shell or the face seal which is capable of engaging the back of a user's head to thereby adjustably secure the face seal and noseclip assembly to a user's face, and
  - (c) either (i) or (ii):
    - (i) a transparent, impact resistant lens fixed to the vision port at the level of the eyes of a user;
    - (ii) a transparent, impact resistant lens rotatably attached at the front part of the helmet and positioned to alternately engage and disengage with the vision port of the shell at the level of the eyes of a user.

**Claim 2. (Original)** The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 1 further comprising a position adjustable adjustment pad attached at a rear part of said helmet which engages

the back of a user's head to thereby adjustably secure the face seal and nose cup assembly to a user's face.

✓ Claim 3. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 1 comprising a transparent, impact resistant lens fixed to the vision port at the level of the eyes of a user.

✓ Claim 4. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 1 comprising a transparent, impact resistant lens rotatably attached at the front part of the helmet and positioned to alternately engage and disengage with the vision port of the shell at the level of the eyes of a user.

BR ✓ Claim 5. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 1 wherein the impact resistant shell material comprises graphite, fiberglass, or combinations thereof.

✓ Claim 6. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 1 wherein the impact resistant lens comprises polycarbonate, polyurethane, or combinations thereof.

✓ Claim 7. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 1 wherein the face seal and nose cup comprise an elastic material.

Claim 8 (Previously Canceled)

✓ Claim 9. (Canceled)

✓ Claim 10. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 1 wherein the filter unit comprises a filter element comprising a material capable of filtering chemical vapors and biological aerosols.

✓ Claim 11. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 10 wherein the filter element comprises a carbon filter.

Claim 12. (Original) The modular helmet-mask assembly of claim 2 wherein said adjustable adjustment pad comprises a tightening adjustment knob or a tightening adjustment lever.

Claims 13-16. (Canceled)

B2 ✓  
Claim 17. (Original) A method for protecting a user's face from chemicals which comprises:

(I) providing a modular helmet-mask assembly which comprises

(a) a helmet capable of enclosing the head of a user, said helmet comprising an impact resistant material; and

(b) a face protection assembly, alternately attachable to and detachable from a front part of said helmet, which face protection assembly comprises

(i) a face protection shell comprising an impact resistant material;

(ii) a vision port through the shell at the level of the eyes of a user;

(iii) a flexible noseup assembly within the shell, which noseup assembly is positioned to engage the mouth and nose of a user, said noseup comprising a breathe-through airflow assembly and a filter unit;

(iv) a flexible face seal, disposed on an inner surface of the shell around the noseup assembly and the vision port, which face seal is capable of engaging the face of a user; and

(v) an adjustable head harness attached at an surface of the shell or the face seal which is capable of engaging the back of a user's head to thereby adjustably secure the face seal and noseup assembly to a user's face, and

(c) either (i) or (ii):

(i) a transparent, impact resistant lens fixed to the vision port at the level of the eyes of a user;

(ii) a transparent, impact resistant lens rotatably attached at the front part of the helmet and positioned to alternately engage and disengage with the vision port of the shell at the level of the eyes of a user;

(II) placing the face protection assembly onto a user's head such that the flexible face seal engages the user's face, and such that the nosecup assembly engages the user's mouth and nose;

(III) adjusting the adjustable head harness such that the face seal and nosecup are secured to the user's face;

(IV) placing the helmet onto the user's head such that the helmet encloses the user's head and attaching the helmet to the face protection assembly; and

(V) adjusting the helmet to secure the helmet, face seal, and nosecup assembly to the user's head.

*BR  
concl'd*  
✓  
Claim 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the modular helmet-mask assembly further comprises a position adjustable adjustment pad attached at a rear part of said helmet which engages the back of a user's head to thereby adjustably secure the face seal and nosecup assembly to a user's face, the method further comprising adjusting the adjustment pad such that the face seal and nosecup are secured to the user's face.

✓  
Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the modular helmet-mask assembly comprises a transparent, impact resistant lens fixed to the vision port at the level of the eyes of a user.

✓  
Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the modular helmet-mask assembly comprises a transparent, impact resistant lens rotatably attached at the front part of the helmet and positioned to alternately engage and disengage with the vision port of the shell at the level of the eyes of a user.